

I wish to object most strongly to proposed new rules that relax the restrictions on Broadcast Ownership. A free press must be allowed to flourish in order to preserve the democracy that we treasure so deeply. Relaxing the restrictions now in place places a burden of trust in the hands of those whose interests are not democracy but profit. The risks of this choice are too great. My family witnessed the consolidation of the press in pre-World War II Germany which led to a few business interests controlling information and promoting a pro-military, profit focused agenda and a complicity that laid the groundwork for the horrible atrocities of the Nazi regime and their destruction of democracy. I do not wish to see our nation follow a similar course of surrendering control of free-speech to those whose interest are not the citizen but the dollar, whose role is not as watch-dog but rather marketing director. Free and vibrant journalism is possible only with many voices and many venues, from the national to the smallest local outlet. If we sacrifice this freedom to a few business interests I am convinced that we sacrifice our democracy at the same time. Please do not approve the proposed changes.